

Sunflower Seeds

Sunflower Seed Grades and Grade Requirements

There are no classes or subclasses in sunflower seed. Sunflower seed is divided into two U.S. numerical grades and U.S. Sample grade. One special grade is provided to emphasize a special condition affecting the value of sunflower seed and is added to and made a part of the grade designation. The special grade does not affect the numerical or Sample grade designation.

U.S. Standards for Sunflower Seeds

Grade	Minimum test weight per bushel (pounds)	Maximum limits of --		
		Damaged Sunflower Seed		Dehulled seed
		Heat damaged (percent)	Total (percent)	
U.S. No. 1	25.0	0.5	5.0	5.0
U.S. No. 2	25.0	1.0	10.0	5.0
U.S. Sample Grade				

U.S. Sample grade is sunflower seed that:

- Does not meet the requirements for the grades U.S. Nos. 1 or 2; or
- Contains 8 or more stones which have an aggregate weight in excess of 0.20 percent of the sample weight, 2 or more pieces of glass, 3 or more crotalaria seeds (*Crotalaria* spp.), 2 or more castor beans (*Ricinus communis* L.), 4 or more particles of an unknown foreign substance(s), or a commonly recognized harmful or toxic substance(s), 10 or more rodent pellets, bird droppings, or equivalent quantity of other animal filth per 600 grams of sunflower seed; or
- Has a musty, sour or commercially objectionable foreign odor; or
- Is heating or otherwise of distinctly low quality.

Definitions

Test weight (lb/bu) is pounds of grain per Winchester bushel as determined by an approved device after the removal of mechanically separated foreign material.

Test weight (kg/hl) is the metric system equivalent to pounds per bushel. Kilograms per hectoliter are calculated by multiplying pounds per bushel by 1.287.

Heat-damaged sunflower seeds are seeds and pieces of sunflower seed that are materially discolored and damaged by heat.

Damaged sunflower seed is seed and pieces of sunflower seed that are badly ground-damaged, badly weather-damaged, diseased, frost-damaged, heat-damaged, mold-damaged, sprout-damaged, or otherwise materially damaged.

Dehulled seed is sunflower seed that has the hull completely removed from the sunflower kernel.

Foreign material is all matter other than whole sunflower seeds containing kernels that can be removed from the original sample by use of an approved device and by handpicking a portion of the sample.

Admixture consists of all material other than sunflower seed which can be removed from a test portion by handsieving and handpicking. Empty hulls and parts of seed are considered sunflower seed.

Moisture is the water content of grain as determined by an approved electronic moisture meter. The percentage of moisture in a sample does not affect the numerical grade.

Table 18. U.S. Sunflower Seed Exports: Number of lots and quantity exported by class and grade, 2000-2002

	2000		2001		2002	
	Number of Lots	Metric Tons	Number of Lots	Metric Tons	Number of Lots	Metric Tons
U.S. No. 1	--	--	3	43,405	--	--
All lots	--	--	3	43,405	--	--

— = No lots reported in this category.

Table 19. Summary of export Sunflower Seed quality, 2000-2002

Factor	Grade	Grade Limit	2000				2001				2002			
			No. of Lots	Avg.	Low	High	No. of Lots	Avg.	Low	High	No. of Lots	Avg.	Low	High
Test Weight (lb/bu)	U.S. No. 1	25.0	--	--	--	--	3	30.2	29.6	30.9	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	30.2	29.6	30.9	--	--	--	--
Test Weight (kg/hl)	U.S. No. 1	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	38.9	38.1	39.8	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	38.9	38.1	39.8	--	--	--	--
Moisture	U.S. No. 1	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	8.6	8.2	8.9	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	8.6	8.2	8.9	--	--	--	--
Heat-damaged Sunflower Seed	U.S. No. 1	0.5	--	--	--	--	3	0.1	0.0	0.2	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	0.1	0.0	0.2	--	--	--	--
Damaged Sunflower Seed (Total)	U.S. No. 1	5.0	--	--	--	--	3	0.8	0.3	1.7	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	0.8	0.3	1.7	--	--	--	--
Dockage	U.S. No. 1	N/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dehulled Seed	U.S. No. 1	5.0	--	--	--	--	3	1.7	0.0	4.5	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	1.7	0.0	4.5	--	--	--	--
Admixture	U.S. No. 1	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	1.5	0.0	4.6	--	--	--	--
	All lots	N/A	--	--	--	--	3	1.5	0.0	4.6	--	--	--	--

N/A = Does not apply.

-- = No lots reported in this category.